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EXD13

BOGOTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/11/86 (RUSER, CLAUS W.) OR-M
TAGS: MILI, PINS, BL, AR
SUBJECT: BOLIVIA: A MEETING WITH GENERAL CRESPI

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT

2. DURING A COURTESY VISIT TODAY, GENERAL EDUARDO CRESPI (SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ONE OF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S CLOSEST ADVISERS) DISCLAIMED ARGENTINE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOLIVIAN COUP. CRESPI SAID HE WISHED TO DENY, OFFICIALLY AND FORMALLY, THAT ARGENTINA HAD INFLUENCED GARCIA MEZA TO PROCEED. THE DECISION HAD BEEN A BOLIVIAN ONE.

3. I SUGGESTED THAT THE EXPECTATION OF ARGENTINE SUPPORT MUST HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN GARCIA MEZA'S CALCULATIONS. CRESPI CLAIMED THAT CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE SPLIT IN THE BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES HAD BEEN A MAJOR CONSIDERATION FOR ARGENTINA IN THROWING ITS SUPPORT BEHIND GARCIA MEZA.

4. CRESPI ASKED HOW WE SAW BOLIVIA'S FUTURE. WHAT DID WE EXPECT ARGENTINA TO DO? DEVELOPMENTS IN BOLIVIA HAD INFLUENCE ON THE

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SITUATION IN ARGENTINA ITSELF, INCLUDING THE PROSPECTS FOR THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY, TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES REMAIN COMMITTED. DIALOGUE, HE SAID, REMAINED IMPORTANT. I NOTED THE GREAT DIFFERENCE IN US AND ARGENTINE PERCEPTIONS AND THE FACT THAT, IN THIS CASE, THE DIALOGUE APPEARED TO HAVE BROKEN DOWN.

5. COMMENT. CRESPI ACKNOWLEDGED THE UNCERTAINTIES IN THE BOLIVIAN SITUATION. PRIOR TO MY MEETING WITH HIM, I HAD ADVISED COL. CERDA THAT WE HAD TO DEFER ANY PLANS FOR A VISIT AT THIS TIME. IT APPEARS THAT THE GOA, BEARING A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT BOLIVIAN SITUATION AND UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE, REMAINS INTERESTED IN COMMUNICATION.

RUSER

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~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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